

## **Attendance Allowance**

*Introduced 6 December 1971*

*Non-contributory, Not income related, Non-taxable*

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a benefit for people who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need someone with them to help with personal care. They could need either frequent help coping with their bodily functions or constant care to stop them hurting themselves or others. This could be either during the day or at night.

A claimant who needs help both during the day and at night can get the higher rate of AA. A claimant who needs help either during the day or at night gets the lower rate. From October 1990, people who have a terminal illness, and are therefore not likely to live for more than 6 months, were also invited to claim. Someone can make a claim on their behalf without their knowledge. Since April 1992, people who were disabled before the age of 65 receive DLA instead of AA.

### **The *terms and conventions* used within the tables are explained below:**

#### Allowances current

The number of people in receipt of DLA, AA or CA. This excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.

#### Liveload

The number of people with entitlement to DLA, AA or CA. This includes people where the payment has been suspended for example, because someone is in hospital.

#### Main disabling condition

This is the medical cause of the main disability which gives rise to the award of DLA or AA.

#### Award

This is first or subsequent award of benefit.

#### Review

A person who is dissatisfied with the result of their last claim can ask for the claim to be reviewed.

#### **Conventions**

- .. Not available
- . Not applicable
- Nil or negligible